

CLAIMS

1. A quartz powder which, upon heating from room temperature to 1,700°C, generates gases in which the amount of CO is 300 nl/g or smaller and the amount of CO₂ is 30 nl/g or smaller.

2. The quartz powder of claim 1, which has a bulk density of from 1.3 to 1.7 g/cm³ and a metal impurity content of 500 ppb or lower.

3. The quartz powder of claim 1, characterized by being a synthetic quartz powder produced by the sol-gel method.

4. A process for producing a synthetic quartz powder which comprises hydrolyzing an alkoxysilane to obtain a silica gel having an average particle diameter of from 10 to 500 µm and bringing the silica gel into contact with at least one of helium and hydrogen gas at a temperature of from 400°C to 1,300°C.

5. The process of claim 4, characterized in that before or after the contacting with at least one of helium and hydrogen gas, the silica gel is heat-treated at a temperature of 1,000°C or higher for from 10 to 50 hours in an oxygen-containing atmosphere.

6. A glass molding characterized by being obtained by melting and molding the quartz powder of claim 1.